JOSEPH M. FREEDMAN
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
LYCEUM THEATRE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Miss Frances Levine,
70 Somers St.,
Brooklyn,
N. Y.

REVERIE OF A RETURNED GUARDSMAN

BY JAMES GRAHAM.

Tho' many land I've traveled o'er,
Of prairie and of wooded hills,
By inland ways and ocean's roar,
By placid streams and rippling rills;
Of all the homes beneath the sun,
By conquest or by toiling won,
None fairer or more dear to me—
My own, my native Tennessee.

Tho' other climes may hold as fair
A promise to the alien one
Of other skies beyond compare;
Tho' other streams as brightly run,
And Fortune turn her lavish cup,
Until the grasping hands fill up,
The truant heart still turns to thee—
My own, my dear, old Tennessee.

O, land of crag and cedar brake,
And low, sweet valleys, lush with corn;
O, land of rivulet and lake,
Where Plenty tips her fruitful horn—
I once again would seek the nest,
In sight of old Chilhowie's crest,
The cot where loved ones wait for me—
My mountain home, my Tennessee.

My lowly home is lacking wealth,
But Love keeps vigil, fond and true,
And, oh, the guerdon there is health,
Where swim the mountain peaks in blue,
And men are loyal, women sweet,
Where life runs with reluctant feet,
Unwilling that dear haunt to flee—
My Fatherland, my Tennessee.

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March 20th, 1917.

My dear darling Frances:-

Your big fat, long letter of the 19th received this morning and let me thank you, over & over again, for so sweet a letter. I sure did enjoy it, & read & reread it time and again. It made me so happy, put so much encouragement into me that if a case of mine was to be tried to-day, I'm sure I would have won it.

Darling mine, if the cases I've lost made me blue, then I have forgotten about it because of your instructions. Yes, dear, I must remember I'm only a beginner, & I must get used to defeat & success, but the thought that I had lost it made me think that perhaps it might keep us apart for a longer time, but after reading your darling letter, I began to reason & found that the first step to success is to meet defeat & disaster just as I would meet victory, & I'm sure that only lack of experience which as yet I haven't got, defeated me in the cases I lost, but I can tell you this, that I'm going to try my hardest to make myself great among men and I'm sure I ought to because of the loving encouragement of my darling Frances & parents, though my sweetheart ~~through~~ threw a scare into me when I read the first part of a certain paragraph in her big letter. I couldn't, to tell you the truth, understand your attitude, but as I went further, I started to smile. I don't think I'll ever be able to figure out the number which represents how much you love me, but I love you even

more than that, so now you please figure it up, if you have any spare time. I just couldn't feel blue after that assertion of how much you love me.

I am glad you like your position so much and you can tell Mr. Swallow (is that his name?) that if you are writing volumes, there's someone down here, very far in miles from you, but near at heart, that's awfully glad when he gets them and if he does put in a post office, it will facilitate matters, too. I was also glad to hear that you weren't bothered by any more telephone calls from Mrs. Maas as I want you to stick there where you are and not get into any arguments. So a friend of yours got that position at Mrs. Maas'? Anything like the "thornless American Beauty"? Hope not, for her sake.

The affair you had with that nigger amused me. Aren't they the clumsiest & idiotic bunch in existence? I have found them that way, and the fool tricks they pull off around here would make anybody laugh. They are naturally "nuts". Everything they do or say is so idiotic, so dog-gone foolish that they are bound to get into trouble. 90 per cent of nigger prisoners are in the toils simply because of their tom fooling. Dishonest! Well, when they've got a hundred dollars in their pockets, they'll come over and ask for a nickel & if you don't respond immediately, they'll beg you for it. They certainly are the limit.

As for that little interview with the school teacher, it sure wasn't any of her

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business. She can think as she chooses, but sweetheart, it just goes to show you that I must give you a ring and as soon as I can afford it, I'll send you one from here. So you are keeping at your embroidery, eh? That's good. Make some pretty little things so that when we get here, we will have a pretty little home. The mere thought of it makes me happy.

As for Sg, I think it would be best to let him alone. If he expects an increase, why does he want change? He is bound to be salaried always, so he may as well stick where he is & enjoy life — and his honey. So Barney wants to practice in New York. Well honey, I'll never leave this section & if I do, it will be for something like a few thousand a year for an income. This is God's country & seeing the enclosed, thought you would like to read it. Tell me what you think of it.

I was very pleased with your statement about not feeling any patriotism to the green. Its the red, white & blue & for the best president we ever had, barring none, for me, too.

Darling, Thursday is our birthday. Let me extend my felicitations & wishes to you, my wife-to-be, & hope & trust that shortly after the next one, we will be married

How did you enjoy your Sunday off? Have a good time? Hope so.

Before I forget, don't ever say that your letters contain trash, for they do not, and also I have'nt had time to look for something to send you as a present, but if I can find something to send you & within my means, I'll do so. Did you get my picture yet?

Now, darling, I'm going to close. I have have a nasty ~~headache~~ headache, as I didn't sleep last night. Worrying about home caused me to pass a very restless night.

With all my love and again wishing you the best of birthday greetings

Lovingly,

Joe.

A nice fat letter, please.

I had to use both sides of the sheet because I didn't have along enough paper. I'm writing on the table ~~of~~ in the 1st Criminal Court. Didn't want to wait until I got back to the office as I didn't want to miss the mail.

Lovingly,

Joe.